

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-2 have been canceled by this preliminary amendment without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein, and Claims 3-4 have been added.

Independent claim 3 is representative of claim 13 of Application No. 10/263,905, which was indicated as being allowed. Independent claim 4 is representative in part of claim 14 of Application No. 10/263,905, and which was also indicated as being allowed.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits earnestly solicited.

***Interview Request***

Applicants' representative respectfully request that the Examiner contact either D. Richard Anderson or Martin Geissler at the below listed phone number in an effort to schedule an interview prior to the mailing of a first action on the merits.

**Conclusion**

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Martin Geissler (Reg. No. 51,011) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview

in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 

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